Daily Report

Latin America

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Friday
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FBIS-LAT-88-199 *14 October 1988*

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Cuba

Jorge Lezcano Receives CSSR Commemorative Medal

FL1210174088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1504 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] The Prague National Committee Commemorative Medal has been conferred on Jorge Lezcano Perez, member of the PCC Central Committee and PCC first secretary in Havana. The Cuban party leader is paying a 3-day visit to Czechoslovakia. He was received at the Old Prague City Hall by Miroslav Stepan, member of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee Presidium [title as heard] and secretary of the party in Prague.

Pays Visit to Budapest

FL1310141288 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Jorge Lezcano Perez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Havana, is in Budapest, Hungary. Lezcano will fulfill a program of exchange of experiences between the parties during his stay there.

Party Leader Almeida on Work Visit to GDR

FL1310144088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Juan Almeida and Erich Mueckenberger, party leaders from Cuba and the GDR, respectively, met in Berlin yesterday. They noted the need for all peace-loving forces in the world to make continued efforts so that the road toward detente is irreversible. Almeida is paying a work visit of several days in the GDR.

Scientific Cooperation Accord With Hungary Signed

FL1210173288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1453 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] A cooperation agreement for science and technology has been signed by Cuba and Hungary at Havana's Sierra Maestra Hotel. The document was signed at the end of the 21st session of the subcommission for scientific-technological bilateral cooperation. The protocol includes the exchange of information on activities that will take place next year, such as geological prospecting, agriculture, computers, communication, and technical assistance.

Manuel Garcia, vice minister of communications, and (Imeni Siska), director-general of the Hungarian communications organization, talked about the importance of the document that was signed.

Yemen Arab Republic Deputy Prime Minister Visits

FL1210193588 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Levi Farah, construction materials industry minister and president of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association, has received Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Yemen Arab Republic. The two leaders agreed that this meeting will strengthen friendship and cooperation between Cuba and the Arab people.

Levi Farah briefed the Yemeni leader on the current activities of the Cuban-Arab Friendship Association which are intended to strengthen unity between our peoples.

Balaguer Heads Delegation Visiting PDRY

FL1310190088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] is marking the 25th anniversary of its revolution and the 10th of the creation of the Yemeni Socialist Party. A Cuban delegation is in this Middle East country headed by Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the PCC Central Committee. [passage omitted]

Chilean Regime Said Trying To Maintain Status Quo

PA1310173988 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Oct 88

["Our America" commentary read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] Despite the no-vote's triumph in the recent plebiscite in Chile, the military hierarchy headed by General Augusto Pinochet insists on maintaining the status quo and, thus, on disregarding the overwhelming defeat it suffered.

Only 7 days after the opposition's victory, and while these forces are still not fully prepared to undertake joint efforts, the regime persists on imposing its controversial 1980 Constitution.

As is well-known, on the morning of 6 October, the newspaper EL MERCURIO reported in advance what Augusto Pinochet would announce that evening. It reported that the 1980 Constitution, which extends the rule of the regime's head and the entire military hierarchy until 1997, would stand.

This fraudulent constitution also specifies the creation of a so-called Defense Council, which has predominance over the Executive and Legislative Branches. As if this were not enough to perpetuate the rejected regime, the 1980 Constitution states that one-third of the Parliament will be elected by the current authorities and will exclude all leftist parties.

A great majority of Chileans are mobilizing against this illegal monstrosity, although, as we said earlier, there have been no firm steps toward achieving a united action against possible government maneuvers.

While the Christian Democrats, together with other center-left forces, are promoting a dialogue with the Armed Forces, the United Left reaffirmed that Pinochet must resign and that the only thing that can be negotiated with the military is the end of the dictatorship.

The menacing posture of certain supporters of the dictatorship attracts attention. They said 1 day after the plesbicite that the battle had been lost, but not the war. And so as not to leave any doubt about this, the government's repression quickly followed. Government forces indiscriminately attacked demonstrators celebrating the no-vote win and local and foreign newsmen, all of whom were beaten by Carabineros. There were several dead and dozens of injured.

The Chilean reactionary forces seem reluctant to be trustworthy and admit they have been defeated. Quite the contrary, they are intent on clinging to power with tooth and nail. This is why the opposition must show unity in an organized, vigorous manner.

Transportation Workers Union Congress Held

FL1210031088 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Excerpt] In keeping with the requests from the party and the people, the 353 delegates to the Fourth Congress of the National Trade Union of Transportation Workers [SNTT] [word indistinct] today showed their interest in the urban bus situation, especially in the capital.

This congress was preceded by a process of review and by extraordinary efforts in the transportation of passengers and merchandise. Members of the outstanding units, for example, accumulated almost 2.5 million hours of voluntary work so far this year.

The fourth congress was inaugurated today at the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] by Alfredo Suarez, and the debate immediately began on the problem of urban buses.

The need to improve the current salary system was brought up, as well as work organization and repair and maintenance tasks. They also favored the abolition of the old concepts for promotions, and the purging of those who do not meet their obligations.

Diocles Torralba, minister of transportation, gave the congress an overview of the current urban bus situation in the capital.

[Begin Torralba recording] Today in Havana City there are 600 omnibuses above and beyond the capacity of the terminals. If this [words indistinct] some of the proposals. As some of our comrades were saying [words indistinct] the omnibuses are expensive. They are different from some of the other buses we had, and we do not have the facilities to maintain those new ones. This means that we must create an emergency program to increase the number of bus terminals in Havana City. [end recording]

The transportation minister said that a new terminal will be completed this year, three others will be completed in 1989, and by 1990 the number will total seven. He also spoke about the efforts being made to manufacture Cuban engines, and he predicted a slight improvement in the coming months.

[Begin Torralba recording] I think the congress has agreed on two strategic issues today. One is the problem of the promotions system—and they put it very well by saying it should be shredded to pieces. The other agreement, which I think is very good and very revolutionary, is on the problem of the purging of our (?ranks). [end recording] [passage omitted]

Worker Absenteeism Discussed

FL1210125488 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] The fourth congress of transportation workers will conclude its work today in Havana.

Yesterday, they extensively discussed the maintenance of equipment, labor discipline, and the conduct of passengers.

The 353 delegates spoke in favor of expelling from the trade union those who do not show up for work because they are as bad as those who transfer unnecessarily or steal money from the fare box. They also approved the implementation of the new promotion system which becomes effective in 1 month. The new system will take into consideration the worker's length of service, quality of work, and history.

A special speech was made yesterday by Transportation Minister Diocles Torralba. He said transportation requires an integral solution that includes improved bus quality, the building of new terminals, and the revision of salary systems.

Increased Efforts Urged

FL1210203488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Excerpt] The Fourth Congress of the SNTT continued today at the Lazaro Pena Theater in our capital with new discussions by the delegates on the cadre policy, administrative instability, and labor indiscipline. In the first hours of the morning session, after deliberations by the

delegates representing civil aviation on the importance of raising the quality of service and meeting the schedules, Alfredo Suarez, secretary general of the SNTT, addressed all the civil aviation workers.

[Begin Suarez recording] To the comrades that are representing civil aviation—Cubana de Aviacion specifically—and, for their part, all employees who work in civil aviation: The congress summons you to make the necessary efforts to change any situation that we may have in any airport, and transform Cubana de Aviacion and its airports into a model as a response to the increase in tourism that Fidel and the PCC have called for. [end recording]

Afterward, a debate emerged from some of the examples, cited by several of the delegates, showing that on occasion the present labor legislation is paternalistic, enabling workers who deserve severe labor sanctions to be absolved by tribunals and restored to their work posts—very much contrary to the criteria of the collective and the administration. On this matter, they arrived at the conclusion that management should argue before the tribunals, with all the required elements, to make legislation much more effective. [passage omitted]

Machado Ventura Speaks

FL1210205388 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] PCC Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura has said at the Fourth Congress of the National Trade Union of Transportation Workers that we are all responsible for indiscipline regarding buses and that people are passive toward this negative aspect. The leader asserted that all revolutionaries should attack these misguided attitudes that hurt the public directly.

The main subject discussed during the morning session of the congress was the development of railroads and the successes achieved in this area. Participants of previous congresses have focused their criticism on this. It was learned that with the completion of the railway signal work at Cascajal, eight stations have been finished. This is the first stage of 120 km with semi-automatic blockings, railway signals, and centralization of points [centralizacion de agujas] in the central and western divisions. This guarantees safety in train traffic, track capabilities, speed, and fuel savings.

For their part, the people of Santiago de Cuba will complete the two-way railroad track at the city's entrance, a branch line, the expansion of the Hermanos Diaz refinery, and the new passenger station by 1990.

After the main report was approved, Ecuador's Fernandez Madrid, secretary general of the Latin American and Caribbean Transportation Workers Union, conveyed greetings on behalf of the members of this union.

National Congress Ends

FL1310040488 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Oct 88

[All speakers identified by caption]

[Text] After 2 intense and revolutionary working days, the Fourth Congress of the National Trade Union of Transportation Workers ended a few moments ago at the Lazaro Pena Theatre of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions]. Pedro Ross Leal, secretary of the PCC Central Committee, said during the closing ceremony that it was a fruitful congress of the caliber of the Cuban working class, and one that reflected the times the country is living through.

During the first meeting, the national committee of the Trade Union of Transportation Workers approved Alfredo Suarez as secretary general, and Armando Perez Concepcion was named second secretary.

The congress concentrated its discussions on the situation of the urban buses, especially in the capital; and it critically debated the problems [words indistinct] in the transportation of passengers and cargo.

[Begin recording] [Transportation Minister Diocles Torralba] We can say that the Cuban railroad workers have given a response to the commander in chief's proposals and concerns. This is evident, with the completion of a great number of projects as reported in this great fourth congress. The workers will also continue working in many other projects as a salute to the assessment reports for next December. [applause]

[Alfredo Suarez, secretary general of the National Trade Union of Transportation Workers, in progress] ...to the comrades and representatives of civil aviation, in particular those of Cubana de Aviacion, as well as those who work in aviation. The congress calls you to carry out the necessary efforts to transform any situation we have, at any time, at any airport. It calls for Cubana de Aviacion and its airports to become a bastion of answers to the increase in tourism, as called for by Fidel and the party.

[Ecuador's Fernandez Madrid, secretary general of the Latin American and Caribbean Transportation Workers Union] It is impossible to explain with words how the [words indistinct] trade union of a socialist country is carried out. It is impossible to explain with how much freedom, courage, and wisdom you have been able to discuss the problems, weaknesses, defects, and at the same time with what ability you give answers and solutions to the problems. Books are unable to teach how the workers are the sole and true owners of the socialist society. I take this experience to Ecuador, and to all the countries of Latin America because I think it is exceptional, including the experiences of the socialist sphere. [as heard]

[Zenaida Osorio, vice president of the Supreme People's Tribunal] The administration is not playing the role it must play when a resolution has been given to it. Furthermore, when it makes claims, it does not do it with all the necessary elements to support what it is claiming.

[Pedro Ross Leal] But I think it is actually a problem of labor justice [as heard]. I think that the courts do not have all the possibilities to act as a court should. A court must act with proof and not because someone supposes or says something. Therefore, indiscipline affects not only the public but also the work center members. It affects those who comply with the law.

[Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the CTC] Actually, the mechanism exists but not the will to apply labor discipline. What is happening with the displine regulations? They are [words indistinct] points of the principles established in the work code. [end recording]

The fourth congress of the transportation workers acknowledged the extraordinary effort and results of the movement's outstanding members. It also recognized the work of the Ernest Tellman brigade and the 71st Anniversary of the October Revolution brigade. It was a congress for review; above all, however, it was a congress for commitments. More than 80 reports were given and each proposed solutions, great willingness to work, and, above all, revolutionary honor.

[Begin Pedro Ross Leal recording] The country has a yearly allocation of 50 million pesos for the capital's bus service. From July of this year to July of next year, the country will allocate 60 million pesos for the buses of the capital. That does not include the fact that the capital's buses—despite the fare increase we had—must be subsidized with 13 million pesos this year. Let's think about it and conclude with a current enlightening statement made by the commander in chief: From these difficult periods we must learn lessons and gain experiences that will be (?just as) useful when objective conditions are better. Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Caricom

Sending of Group to Nicaragua 'Not Practical'

FL1210160088 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Caribbean Community foreign ministers meeting in New York have agreed not to send a mission to Central America. Last week, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega urged Caricom to send a delegation to Nicaragua and Central America to examine the situation in the region. However, the deputy secretary general of Caricom, Louis Wilshire, said that Caricom ministers did not believe that would be practical at this time.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer Appoints New National Police Chief

FL1310172888 Santo Domingo Radio Popular in Spanish 0930 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Last night, President Joaquin Balaguer appointed Colonel Luis Alberto Nunez Guzman as new chief of the National Police with the rank of brigade general. The appointment is contained in the Decree No 480 of 1988 released by the chief executive at the National Palace last night. [passage indistinct]

Officials Investigate Prison Corruption Charges

FL1210165788 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0942 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Judicial authorities are investigating alleged charges of corruption in the Victoria national penitentiary.

Dominican Attorney General Lic Semiramis Olivo de Pichardo says that the incident involves the allocation of funds for the inmates' food.

The alleged acts of corruption led to the resignation of prison warden (Julio Palmonte Mona).

The attorney general said that the investigation of this case will be taken to the limit, regardless of the consequences. Lic Olivo de Pichardo said she is the person most interested in having the prisons operate properly.

Jorge Blanco Trial in Absentia Set for 26 Oct

FL1210171388 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0942 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] The district prosecutor has said that the trial in absentia against former President Salvador Jorge Blanco will he held on 26 October, which is the result of the [words indistinct] that the attorneys of the former leader obtained. Dr Alexis Joaquin Castillo said that based on law 37-23 of the [words indistinct] procedures code, the trial will not be suspended. [passage indistinct]

Grenada

Minister Denies Existence of Foreign Troops

FL1210155788 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] At the United Nations General Assembly yesterday, Grenadian Foreign Minister Ben Jones sought to put down the notion that foreign troops are still stationed in Grenada. Speaking before the UN General Assembly, Mr Jones described such claims as propaganda. He says that there have been no foreign troops in his country since 1985.

Haiti

6,000 Demonstrate Against Aristide Transfer

FL1410140288 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] Six thousand Haitians demonstrated in the streets of Port-au-Prince, Haiti yesterday. The uproar was over the recent order by Catholic Church leaders to transfer a popular radical priest out of Haiti. Jean Bertrand Aristide had been gathering a popular following with his call for revolution and his support has been solidified by the recent attacks against his church by armed men in which 12 people were killed and 70 were hurt.

The Haitian military has agreed to close down Haiti's most dreaded prison, Fort Dimanche. That decision has received the praise of the Bishop Center for Human Rights.

News Conferences Support Aristide, Slain Volel

FL1310200088 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] This morning, the RDC [Christian Democratic Assembly] held a news conference—with Eddy Volel, Yves Volel's brother, as its spokesman—to inform the public of the activities planned on the occasion of the (?anniversary of the) death of the defender of forgotten prisoners, Mr Yves Volel, who was, as you know, murdered in front of the Criminal Investigations Department on 13 October 1987.

In answer to the question as to whether the RDC or the Volel family was planning to initiate legal proceedings, the brother said: We do not trust the Haitian courts. We do not trust the people currently running the country, especially because human rights do not exist in Haiti. To initiate legal proceedings would be a waste of time.

The Volel family will thus not initiate legal proceedings in connection with the murder of Mr Yves Volel, because, says his brother, there is no justice in Haiti.

Another press conference was also held by the poor people of Life Lies in the Family [Lan Fanmi Se La Vi]. They too are asking that Father Aristide be kept in Haiti. There will be further details on this evening's newscast. Thank you.

PNDPH States Position on 17 September Coup

FL1210190188 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Dr Turneb Delpe, secretary general of the National Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti [PNDPH], and two other PNDPH members held a news conference yesterday morning at approximately 1000 at the Holiday Inn Le Plaza Hotel on the Champ de Mars. The news conference was to commemorate the 3d anniversary of the death of Dr Lionel Laine, an opponent of the Francois and Jean-Claude Duvalier regimes who died on 10 October 1985. Dr Laine was the founder of the PNDPH and an important member of the opposition both inside and outside Haiti. [passage omitted]

They also gave the party's opinion on the coup d'etat that overthrew General Namphy last 17 September. [passage omitted]

[Begin Delpe recording] [Passage omitted] We of the PNDPH feel that Dr Laine did not die in vain. The seeds he sowed within the Army are today bearing fruit. He proved that, strategically, he was right—even though the leadership using that strategy might not lead the people onto the road to the democracy the people really want. This is why the PNDPH states, after taking into consideration all the events that have occurred in the four corners of Haiti from 7 February 1986 to the St Jean Bosco massacre, that we approve of the 17 September coup d'etat, but do not yet support [anyone].

Within the framework of the spirit of dialogue and overture that the current government is trying to exhibit, it must define everything for public opinion—what kind of a government it is. Is it a transitional government or a revolutionary government? According to what it says, it must have a program in keeping with its definition of itself. This program should be a proposal made to the nation by the current government. All sectors of the national life should give their opinion on it and should engage in constructive criticism of this program. In this way we will be able to end up with a program supported by a national consensus and will be able to avoid such violent incidents as those that have occurred in Haiti since 1986, provoked by the improper behavior of the National Government Council and the Namphy government toward the Haitian people. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Further on News Conference

FL1210204288 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Yesterday a news conference was held to commemorate the 3d anniversary of the assassination of Dr Lionel Laine. Colette Lespinasse [Radio Soleil reporter] attended the news conference.

[Begin Lespinasse recording] Members of the PNDPH, the Nationalistic Democratic and Progressive Party of Haiti [Pati Nasyonalis Demokratik Progresis Dayiti], held a news conference to commemorate the murder of the party's founder and president, Dr Lionel Laine, who died on 10 October 1985 at the military hospital. [passage omitted] Several members of the Armed Forces and other people who had known Dr Laine were present at the news conference. PNDPH Secretary General Turneb Delpe talked about the leader's life. [passage omitted]

The PNDPH authorities set forth the party's position in regard to the current juncture. The PNDPH feels that given the situation the majority of the Haitian people are currently facing, what needs to be done is to get rid of the representatives of the forces that do not want change—throughout the country and at all levels. They said that in order for this to happen, a historic unity must be effected through a clear doctrine that will eliminate the seeds of division. The PNDPH approves of the 17 September coup, but does not yet support the military government. [passage omitted] They consider the current dialogue as positive. They hope the sector struggling for democracy will go before the government as a well-united group. They express the hope that all sectors of the Army and of the population that want change for Haiti will together find an answer to the following three questions:

1. What are the causes—internal and external—of our being in this most unfortunate situation?

2. What is our mission as the people that founded the first black republic on the American continent?

3. Why are we to this day failing in that mission? [passage omitted] [end recording]

Army Reinstates Officials in Mirebalais

FL1310194788 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Now some news from the provinces. Our correspondent has informed us that there was much shooting going on this morning in Mirebalais. When he went to see what it was all about, he learned that it was the Army, reinstating a magistrate who had been uprooted by the population after 17 September.

After that, these same soldiers went and shut down the civil court, because the employees had complained about the examining magistrate. They shut down the civil court. The soldiers then went and shut down the court of conciliation. After the population had demonstrated, saying that they did not want the justice of the peace and other members of the soldiers' court, the soldiers went to find those people who had been uprooted in order to reinstate them, according to our correspondent.

Also, he told us that the soldiers arrested a businessman in Mirebalais whom they suspected of having a weapon.

Soldiers Capture 'Thugs' in Saint-Marc

FL1210211888 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 12 Oct 88

[By Saint-Marc correspondent]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, Tuesday, 11 October, at around 1700, soldiers in Saint-Marc managed to capture two thugs [Sans Mamans]. (?The soldiers said) they were thugs who were in the habit of (?causing much trouble) in Saint-Marc, and were now in hiding, following the movements of the patriotic enlisted men [words indistinct] the town of Saint-Marc—more precisely, in the hills.

Thus, yesterday, at around 1700, the soldiers in Saint-Marc, in a village called (Venotte), in the fourth communal section of Saint-Marc, managed to capture (David Noisin) [words indistinct] a thug who used to do lots of things. His picture had even been taken as he was smashing the equipment of French journalists back during the elections on 28 November in Saint-Marc. He gave a list of 15 people who participated in that movement with him. [passage omitted]

Legal Proceedings Against Romain Initiated

FL1310210788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Mr (Jacaman Charles), the new head of the Department of the Public Prosecutor, has informed the public that he has initiated legal proceedings against Franck Romain after receiving a letter of complaint about Romain. Charles says the letter accuses Romain of being involved not only in the St Jean Bosco Church massacre but also in the massacre that occurred during the aborted elections of 29 November 1987, which left 24 dead and 74 wounded.

Mr (Charles) asked all victims of crimes and murders to write him letters denouncing these crimes. He said that is how democracy works. He added that people need not be afraid to denounce crimes, and that they will all now obtain justice.

Mr (Charles) said the Romain affair is going to be sent before an examining magistrate, and the procedure whereby Franck Romain will go before a court to answer for the crimes of which he is accused is going to unfold normally.

[Begin recording] [(Charles)] [Passage omitted] We have prepared a dossier based on the complaints and the written record of the proceedings of the justice of the peace, which we have sent to the examining magistrate. The minute we send the letters of complaint to the examining magistrate, we have thereby initiated legal proceedings, you see?

Of course, the procedure must be allowed to pursue its course. As soon as we initiate legal proceedings, the remainder of the procedure does not depend on us. It depends on the examining magistrate, the appeals the individual might choose to make, and a number of things like that.

[Reporter] You spoke of a letter of complaint that you have received, but there is also the public hue and cry. Doesn't that count?

[(Charles)] It counts, but let me tell you something about the public hue and cry. At present, we have the press talking, and so forth. However, we refer mainly to the letter of complaint, because it bears a signature. A letter of denunciation is signed by someone, and the examining magistrate can summon this person to make a statement before him. With the public hue and cry, when the examining magistrate needs someone to come in, there is no one to come before him. Of course, now we have press organs. If a radio or television station broadcasts something, we write the radio or TV station and ask for the cassette, tape, video-cassette, film, or whatever, to use as (?evidence), you see?

We have already written several press organs asking them to send us cassettes, video-cassettes, films, and everything they might have on such or such an incident, you see?

[Reporter] You said that the letter of complaint you have received alluded to the events of 29 November.

[(Charles)] Well, yes. It did.

[Reporter] Did you have a dossier on 29 November when you got this letter?

[(Charles)] No, no, no, no. (?As far as I am concerned) [words indistinct].

[Reporter] So how are you going to be able to....

[(Charles), interrupting] Listen, the person who signed the letter of denunciation is going to state, before the examining magistrate, what he knows. You understand? We need letters of denunciation. You understand? [end recording]

Precisely in this same connection, Mr (Jacaman Charles) said that the fact that he initiates legal proceedings does not mean that he has the authority to prevent the Haitian Government from granting Franck Romain a safe-conduct. However, on this matter, AFP says that it learned from a reliable source yesterday that the new Haitian military regime has no intention of granting Franck Romain a safe-conduct as the Dominican authorities have said they would like. [passage omitted]

Ministry To Study Possibility of Price Controls

FL1410130388 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Press release issued by Minister of Commerce and Industry Jean Gerard Louisias—date and place not given]

[Text] The Ministry of Commerce and Industry informs the public in general and merchants in particular that in order to confront the many problems that have arisen due to the recent political situation, sectorial committees have been formed in diverse sectors within the ministry to find appropriate solutions [to these problems]. These committees will look into the possibility of lowering the prices of basic necessities, whether imported or locally produced. They will determine the rate of turnover, set the retail prices of the products, and (?set) the time allowed for resupplying in order to avoid any tendency to hoard, which might lead to shortages and [words indistinct] to an artificial increase in prices.

Certain dossiers still pending because of the difficulties they present will be studied with representatives of the public sector and professional, commercial, and industrial associations as appropriate so there can be an immediate follow-up.

[Signed] Jean Gerard Louisias

National Port Authority Appointments Made

FL1110200188 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 11 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The military government has made some appointments in the National Port Authority. Mr (Luckner Ulysse) has been appointed general director, Mr (Gespere Joseph) administrative director, and Mr (Fritz Joseph) operations director. Mr (R. Vieux Victor) has been appointed technical director. These appointments were made on 10 August [month as heard] 1988. Communal councils have also been appointed. [passage omitted] Thus, in all these areas—Jacmel, Saint Louis du Sud, Thomassique, Ranquitte, Cabaret, and Cerca Carvajal—there are new communal magistrates, appointed by a commission of the military government headed by Lieutenant General Prosper Avril.

Jamaica

Seaga Said Closing Popularity Gap With Manley

FL1310155088 Bridgetown CANA in English 1403 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Oct 12, CANA—Prime Minister Edward Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) made dramatic popularity gains in the wake of Hurricane Gilbert, coming within two points of closing the wide gap of Micheal Manley's People National Party, according to a new public opinion poll published here.

The survey, conducted by Professor Carl Stone between September 22 and 26—two weeks after Gilbert struck—gave the opposition PNP a 51 per cent standing against 49 per cent for Seaga's JLP.

In a July poll done for the GLEANER newspaper the PNP had a 56.6 per cent support among people likely to vote, while the JLP had 43.4 per cent standing.

Another survey by Stone, completed two days before the hurricane battered Jamaica, showed that 56.3 per cent of Jamaicans expected the PNP to win the election that Seaga must call by next April. Only 32.6 per cent thought

the JLP would win. The new Stone poll sampled only 30 areas against 133 in the previous October survey. The sample size of 804 was only 24 per cent of the earlier one.

"Hurricane Gilbert has put a whole issue on the political agenda," Stone wrote in the GLEANER newspaper. "The issue has to do with the party and the leader best equipped to rebuild the country."

Manley, whose party has consistently led the JLP in the public opinion polls since 1982, except for a brief period in late 1983, has said he was not surprised by the latest poll finding. "It is a very major disaster," he said. "It is a sort of a reflection of a great traumatised public—feeling this is the way to get money." "I had thought it was bound to happen," Manley added. However, Manley did not expect the surge to the JLP to last long, as whatever was the agenda that had caused his party to maintain a significant lead over the JLP "would tend to re-assert itself."

But Stone pointed out that if the new issues dominated the election and the trend continued, Seaga had a good chance of being re-elected for an unprecedented third term. "In any event, the Gilbert factor will ensure that the election will be a closely contested affair with either party now having a good chance of winning," the pollster said.

Stone said three factors accounted for the post-hurricane push of public opinion towards the JLP, the first that Seaga with his connections was better able to mobilise massive external funding required for rebuilding after the storm.

There was also the issue of who was the better manager and some voters with no firm party loyalties were now entertaining doubts about the PNP and leaning towards greater confidence in Seaga's reputed managerial and technocratic skills.

"This factor is strongest among the middle and lower middle class voters," Stone said.

Thirdly, shortages and dislocations caused by [words indistinct] the middle classes shortages and dislocations during the PNP administration of the 1970's.

Stone pointed out that the dramatic shift of public opinion caused by the hurricane was reminiscent of party support in October 1983 after the assassination of Grenada's Prime Minister Maurice Bishop during an internal feud, triggering a wave of anti-socialist sentiment here. The PNP is a democratic socialist party.

He recalled that the JLP surge was short-lived, disappearing by December of the year. But by then Seaga had called a snap election, which was boycotted by the PNP on the grounds that the voters register was out-dated and that agreed electoral reforms were not in place.

Stone said that though the impact of the hurricane was not likely to fade, as in 1983, early elections will favour the JLP. But Seaga's hands are tied in this regard for an election could not be called before normality was restored "and a minimal requirement here is the island-wide return of electricity."

"The Gilbert issue could begin to turn sour for the JLP if major problems of food shortage, poverty and hardships begin to increase over the next few months before it is feasible to call elections," Stone said. "The longer the election is delayed, the more this will favour a revival of the earlier large PNP majority." Stone stressed that those voters favouring Manley over Seaga to undertake the rebuilding of the country felt that "Manley is more likely to help the poorer classes and because of support for Manley's self-reliance policy approach." But he added immediate shock effect of the Gilbert hurricane has triggered a dependency syndrome in which many desperate Jamaicans see their only hope of survival as linked to foreign and overseas help. And this is primarily responsible for the pro-JLP surge that Seaga is seen as more able than Manley to activate large-scale foreign aid."

Manley in his interview with the Jamaica Record touched on the dilemma faced by Seaga: whether to call an election immediately or ride the crest of anxiety while holding on a bit longer in a bid to consolidate his gain.

But the PNP was ready to fight the election, Manley said. "Our party is completely prepared and completely organised," the PNP leader said.

Seaga Friday told reporters that the election was the furtherest thing from his mind at this time. "It takes a perversion of mind to think of politics at this time and I am not of a perverse mind," he said.

Finance Officials View Oil Price Effects

PA1410145388 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Mexican Finance Under Secretary Francisco Suarez Davila has reported that the IMF's financial contingency plan to help Mexico compensate for the fall in international oil prices ended in March. Nevertheless, he added that unlike 1986, the Mexican economy today is better prepared to face the international situation. The finance under secretary said even with the decrease in petroleum revenues, Mexico will have a $4 billion trade surplus. He said there are four ways to compensate for the decrease in petroleum revenues: 1. Use international reserves; 2. Increase the collection of fiscal revenues through an efficient administrative effort; 3. Study new budget cuts without affecting social programs; and 4. Negotiate the foreign debt.

Suarez Davila stated this in an address to a joint meeting of the Finance and Public Credit and Planning and Budget Committees of the Chamber of Deputies to explain details about the policy dealing with 1987's public finances. In his statement, the official said that although the foreign debt burden is being reduced, a negotiated moratorium is always much more effective than a unilateral moratorium.

[Begin Suarez recording in progress] ...in the sense that we must begin a new phase of negotiation in which the debt and annual interest payments will be reduced. This is an essential condition to grow. At the same time, we must obtain long-term resources to achieve the recovery and sustained structural transformation of the economy. [end recording]

The under secretary said international commitments are needed to compensate debtor countries like Mexico for external factors that adversely affect our resources, as is the case with petroleum prices, interest rates, and trade protectionism. He reported that in the past 5 years, Mexico has paid $48 billion in interest.

Meanwhile, Commerce Secretary Hector Hernandez Cervantes is also optimistic about Mexico's future despite the drop in international petroleum prices. He said the improvement of public finances and the last budget cut, estimated at approximately $500 billion [as heard], will be enough to face the decline in petroleum prices.

[Begin recording] [Hernandez] I must point out that any drop in export revenues has repercussions not only on the amount of foreign exchange but, in the case of petroleum, on public revenues. This decrease in public revenues because of the price drop has to be compensated by budget measures, as the planning and budget secretary has already announced.

[Reporter] Will these measures be enough?

[Hernandez] Well, to date, there has been a satisfatory improvement in public finances. This is just one more difficulty we have to overcome and I think we have the means to do so. Of course, we hope the next OPEC meeting will bring about greater stability in the market so petroleum prices will reflect costs. [end recording]

Inflation Rate 0.6 Percent in September

PA1410023488 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 10 Oct 88 pp 1, 39

[Report by Vivian Perry]

[Excerpt] The monthly inflation rate for consumer goods dropped to 0.6 percent in September—its lowest level in twelve years—and Bank of Mexico officials presented the figure as evidence that the Economic Solidarity Pact (PSE) is working.

September's producer price index registered a decrease of 1 percent compared to August, an event the central bank said was unprecedented in the eight years that wholesale prices have been monitored. [passage omitted]

Costa Rica

Panama Version of Border Incident Rejected

PA1310203088 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1847 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] In response to the Panamanian Government's refusal to accept its responsibility for Tuesday's incident near the Panamanian border, Acting Foreign Minister Carlos Rivera Bianchini has said Planning Minister Jorge Monge's report clearly states the facts and leaves no room for further discussion of the incident.

A group of Panamanian policemen entered Costa Rican territory on Tuesday and intercepted a group of Costa Ricans, among whom were Planning Minister Monge and members of an EEC delegation. Rivera Bianchini said that according to the planning minister's report, there can be no doubt that the Panamanian policemen were in Costa Rican territory. This is proof enough for the Foreign Ministry, he said, and some form of action must be taken.

Rivera Bianchini said, nevertheless, that the aim is not to harm the good relations between the Costa Rican and Panamanian Governments, but to establish the facts surrounding the incident once and for all.

El Salvador

FMLN Bombs Damage San Salvador Building

PA1310185588 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Two bombs set off by FMLN urban guerrillas last night partially destroyed the recently built La Torre de Cristal building on Roosevelt Avenue in San Salvador. The explosions caused no injuries, but damage to the eastern side of the first floor is estimated at several million colons. It is not known who owns the building. [passage omitted]

In other military actions, one guerrilla was killed and two soldiers were injured in clashes in San Vicente Department. According to official reports, the clash took place near Tecoluca when rebels tried to attack troops from the Military Engineers Detachment.

The FMLN last night blew up the administrative offices of the [name indistinct] seaside resort in La Paz Department. There were no injuries.

At daybreak today, FMLN guerrillas blew up a power pole at Galera Quemada Canton, Ilobasco jurisdiction.

Guatemala

Labor, Peasant Groups Hold March 12 Oct

PA1310191488 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 13 Oct 88 p 6

[Article by Arnoldo Cruz]

[Excerpts] A demonstration organized by the Labor and Popular Action Union, UASP, was held yesterday. Most of the participants were from rural areas, particularly members of the Committee of Peasant Unity, CUC, which for a long time has been described as "subversive." The UASP demanded that the national crisis be solved and that a national dialogue be held without excluding any group.

UASP leaders estimated that nearly 10,000 people participated in the march. [passage omitted]

The large number of peasants in the march was noticeable. The peasants, who came from the western plateau, carried banners and placards. Many brought their children. As in other marches, a red banner with the UASP acronym headed the demonstration. Slogans against the government were constantly chanted.

What was evident in the march was the reappearance of the CUC, an organization that government authorities have linked to the guerrilla forces. [passage omitted]

Gramajo Denies URNG Army Casualty Reports

PA1410042788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2303 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo emphatically denied today that guerrillas had caused nearly 2,000 Army casualties this year. He told ACAN-EFE that rebel reports claiming to have inflicted a large number of casualties on the Army, are "false" because "the reports are issued by CERIGUA, the clandestine group's propaganda organization."

According to CERIGUA, the URNG's mouthpiece, the Armed Forces have sustained 1,951 casualties so far this year.

"We report any incident involving rebel groups, and the figures do not match," Gen Gramajo said, adding, "the Army has successfully fulfilled its duty of maintaining peace in the country."

CERIGUA, headquartered in Mexico City, said the rebel radio station "Voz Popular," operating clandestinely in southwestern San Marcos Department, has reported that Army casualties caused by the rebels include 23 officers "and a large number of lower-ranking soldiers."

Nicaragua

Ortega on Reagan Threat To Call Back Congress

PA1410014888 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2257 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Statements by President Daniel Ortega during "Face the People" program with GDR youths in Jinotepe City, Carazo Department—live; passage-by-passage translation into German; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...and Nicaragua. We established formal relations between our governments and parties right after the triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution. However, before the triumph of the revolution, the Nicaraguan people already had the sympathy and solidarity of the GDR people, party, and government. Our relations have been strengthened throughout the years.

Concerning international cooperation, we very much appreciate the cooperation by the Soviet Union, the GDR, and Cuba. We also value the cooperation by the sister nations of the socialist community and some Western European countries, which have contributed to the defense of the revolutionary process.

The fact you are here visiting Nicaragua holding this second meeting is more proof of the excellent relations between our peoples.

We talked about the need to build everyday. We discuss those issues at meetings, in neighborhoods, and in the rural areas. We are determined to build schools and health centers and to defend the Nicaraguan people's lives.

Our meetings have a constructive purpose. We do not meet to plan attacks on other countries; we do not meet to conspire against the U.S. Government. We meet to defend Nicaragua's sovereignty and independence. U.S. Government officials also meet to discuss issues. The U.S. Government is interested in promoting and defending a hegemonic, international policy. The U.S. Government is interested in destroying the Nicaraguan revolution.

Just today, President Ronald Reagan threatened to call a special session of the U.S. Congress—which is supposed to go on recess soon—if he determines the Nicaraguan people and government are trying to eliminate the contras. Reagan has said he would call a special congressional session to reach decisions against Nicaragua, among others, to seek the approval of more funds to continue the war against Nicaragua. Reagan said he has told the contras about this decision.

That is Nicaragua's reality. We are subjected to U.S. Government aggression. That is also the reality of other of the world's countries that are victims of U.S. Government policies. However, things have begun to change in the world, and there is a force—not only the one [words indistinct]—but the one [words indistinct] in the West and among the U.S. people themselves, who reject these types of imperialist policies. The role played by the youth in this struggle is very important. It is even decisive.

D'Escoto Addresses UN General Assembly

PA1310225088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2111 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Speech by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto at the UN General Assembly in New York—live; monitored in progress]

[Text]...international law. A climate in which hostility and [2-second break in reception] are replaced with respect for international pluralism, peaceful coexistence, cooperation, and friendship among peoples.

Concerning disarmament, the main responsibility still lies with the militarily powerful countries. They must reduce military expenditures and increase their official aid for development.

The idea of forming a UN fund for disarmament and development is still valid. It is significant that the developing countries' total foreign debt exceeds a trillion dollars, because that equals the current amount of military expenditures throughout the world.

The net transfer of capital from Latin America and the Caribbean to foreign regions in the last few years represents 45 percent of the U.S. defense expenditures for 1987 and 66 percent of its fiscal deficit. The arms race has been financed, promoted, and developed at the expense of our people's misery and hunger.

As a result of the current unfair economic order, the foreign debt problem, which burdens most of the world's peoples, is an insurmountable obstacle for development. Recognizing people's right to develop is the first step toward solving the problem. Partial solutions through bilateral negotiations have been exhausted.

The foreign debt problem simply cannot be solved with more debt. Adjustment policies have reached their limits. The strategy to gain time and wait for an economic miracle is not only evasive, it is suicidal.

Both debtors and creditors would suffer the results of a world economic collapse; therefore, we must achieve overall and joint solutions.

The decision recently adopted by the SELA member-states is a very important step toward that solution. The SELA members met in Caracas, Venezuela, and decided to hold the first Latin American conference on foreign debt next year. In our opinion, that conference must be held as soon as possible and must have the participation of distinguished experts from other regions that also experience the consequences of that serious problem.

However, it is not enough to recognize the seriousness of the debt problem and achieve a fair solution based on the awareness that debtors and creditors are both responsible for the foreign debt problem, as long as the new international economic order does not become a reality. If that is not achieved, we would be gaining very little, if anything at all, by solving the foreign debt situation alone. Problems are not solved only by attacking its consequences; their causes must also be attacked. The wealth of a few must not continue growing without limits at the expense of the poverty of the majorities. Insofar as we can find a fair and overall solution to this overwhelming problem, we would be laying the foundations for the reorganization of the current system of world economic relations.

A new international economic order continues to be one of our most important objectives and priorities, and the pragmatism still displayed by some cannot be the pretext to abandon the struggle and subject us irresponsibly to the immoral logic of the extreme mercantilism that prevails today. Mr President, the new impulse gained by the organization in resolving various regional conflicts—ranging from the Geneva accords on Afghanistan to the independence of Namibia, the end of the Iran-Iraq war, dialogue in Cyprus, and the self-determination of Western Sahara—is, to a great extent, the consequence of the work done by this organization and its secretary general in favor of world peace.

Although it wants to take credit, it is evident these achievements do not belong to the U.S. superpower. Its government, in the past 8 years, has been actually characterized by a systematic blockade of this organization and its specialized branches and the promotion of theories such as linkage, constructive engagement, and low-intensity war, all of which were invented to prolong the suffering of the peoples and delay the dawn of liberty.

If we are now witnessing a resurgence of the United Nations, it is actually because that open and covert war against multilateralism has been defeated. If we are now harboring hopes of witnessing the resolution of various regional conflicts, it is because we firmly defended our principles throughout this struggle for resistence. We have persistently proposed solutions based on those principles. If we are now beginning to see the possible end of the shameful policy and practice of apartheid, which constitutes the most serious offense against universal conscientiousness of our time, credit for that goes primarily to the heroic struggle of the South African people and to international solidarity headed by the Frontline states, the heroic and unselfish participation of the Cuban people, support of the entire Nonaligned Movement, and the meritorious efforts of the United Nations.

It is this admirable tenacity of men, peoples, and institutions fighting for peace that will lead to the recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, reunification of Korea, and the definitive liberation of Central America and Panama from the century-old scourge of U.S. interventionism.

In Central America, peace efforts continue to be sabotaged. The Esquipulas accords, which were signed by Central American presidents on 7 August 1987, have not been fully implemented. An important aspect of the accords pertains to the indispensable verification mechanisms.

Nicaragua has insistently proposed that such a mechanism be conceived as a UN peace operation under the leadership of its secretary general and the participation of a group of countries that have already expressed a willingness and desire to actively participate in this noble task and bring about peace and harmony to our region.

As is widely known, Honduras has been reluctant, together with the other Central American countries, to sign a request to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that asks him to organize the verification mechanism. Last week, the Honduran foreign minister boasted here about presenting an alternate proposal to the one discussed within the framework of Esquipulas II.

However, as always, Honduras continues to refuse to engage in serious talks to expedite the implementation of an instrument that could guarantee security at the Nicaraguan-Honduran border.

We have reiterated this many times, and there is no sense in spending too much time on it. The Central American problem has a very definite name: It is called U.S. intervention. When the United States decides to stop waging war against Nicaragua and stop involving its lackeys in that war, the international tension in Central America will improve greatly.

Mr President, we have spoken of the need to establish a true international democracy. The bases of this democracy are legal principles and respect for these principles, which guarantee international peace, international security, and the defense of sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity in the face of U.S. aggression. In addition to resisting heroically in the military field, Nicaragua has favored resorting to international law and justice.

In its historic decision of 27 June 1986, the International Court of Justice [ICJ] ruled in favor of Nicaragua and ordered the United States to immediately stop the dirty and immoral war and compensate Nicaragua for the damage. The fact the U.S. Government refuses to comply with the ICJ's ruling does not invalidate the sentence. Nicaragua has defended and will continue defending international law; therefore, we advocate world acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the court.

During the recent ministerial conference of the Nonaligned Movement held in Cyprus, Nicaragua proposed holding a special ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement at The Hague next year to discuss peace and

international law. The proposal was approved by acclamation. Next year—on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the first peace conference held at The Hague, at which time the first international agreements on peaceful means for resolving conflicts were approved—is the appropriate time for holding this meeting.

In view of the importance of the topic, we want that meeting to be open to the participation of all UN members and countries that are interested parties to the ICJ statutes who wish to participate.

Mr President, the topic of Nicaragua, specifically the topic of the military and paramilitary activities organized, financed, and directed by the United States against Nicaragua, is something that has been very much in the minds of all the world's peoples in recent years. In my travels through Africa, Asia, the South Pacific, Latin America, Europe, and even the United States, I have found that my small country has become a symbol of dignity and heroic resistance against those who try to deny the Third World countries their right to true self-determination and independence, which is the indispensable basis for the authentic democratization all peoples want.

On the other hand, Mr President, we have observed the deep discredit surrounding the aggressor in Latin America; the reputation of the United States has hit rock bottom. Some believe it will never recover its reputation, or that, at least, it will be a long time before it recovers. Everyone agrees the dirty, immoral, and illegal policy against Nicaragua is the basic reason for this discredit.

Secretary of State Shultz and one or two Latin American friends do not share this opinion. However, that is another story or deal.

The feelings of the Latin American people have been clearly expressed by the large masses, which Secretary of State George Shultz and Vice President George Bush saw in Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Brasilia, and most recently in Quito, which was also visited by President Ortega on the same occasion.

I do not believe it is necessary to repeat what those masses shouted at Shultz and how they greeted Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

Having failed it its attempt to militarily overthrow the democratically elected Government of Nicaragua, the Reagan administration has begun promoting various provocative acts to test my government's willingness to apply the law. We have also run the risk of facing U.S. Government retaliation for doing so.

The incident in Nandaime, in which many have rended their garments in a pharisaical manner, is just one of the latest examples of what is known today as the Melton plan. Melton is the former U.S. ambassador in Managua, in charge of implementing the plan.

Mr President, it is obvious to all those present here that no self-respecting government may subordinate the application of its laws to political opportunism, much less to predictions on how its enemies abroad or on how its enemies' friends may manipulate the meaning of its legal actions. It is never correct to allow the flagrant disrespect for the law to be accompanied by impunity. There is nothing more harmful to authorities and a government's credibility. Nothing could be more effective in promoting anarchy and inciting the people into taking justice into their own hands than the demonstration of weakness in a government's application of the law.

The Reagan administration is fully aware of this fact; therefore, its efforts are aimed at provoking the collapse of the Nicaraguan Government. They would like us to passively follow their illegal guidelines dictated by their supporters inside Nicaragua.

In Nicaragua, we have a people's government that was freely elected by the people in one of the most clean electoral processes in Latin America. We have laws, we have a Constitution, and those who decide to disrespect the laws must suffer the consequences, even though they think they can seek refuge from the U.S. Government if they are caught carrying out their criminal activities.

Mr President, dear colleagues, we were not intimidated in our military struggle against the U.S. mercenary forces; we have defeated them. Certainly we will also not be intimidated by the political attacks, which increase each day, and by the multimillion-dollar slanderous campaigns aimed at discrediting our nation. It is the United States that has felt obligated to flee the world's highest court of justice. We do not accept the criticisms of a government that is far behind us in matters of respect for human rights and civil liberties, especially in times of war. Therefore, it is obvious we also will not accept the criticisms from the empire's Central American lackeys, justly discredited in the international community, especially at the United Nations, because of their disastrous record in matters of respect for human rights. That is why we will not even bother to refute certain unfounded accusations made here this morning by the Salvadoran foreign minister.

Instead, we will continue to fight against irrationality with reason, against terrorism with the law, and against a policy of intimidation by seeking an honest dialogue.

We will continue insisting that the country hosting the United Nations and the OAS prove it deserves to keep its position as host country of those organizations. This implies it must show respect for the member countries' sovereign rights and for the independence of those organizations.

In this context, my dear friends, I only wish to add that we reserve the right to take new measures concerning the abusive denial of visas to the delegation members who were to accompany President Ortega to this assembly.

We believe in the United Nations; we believe it is possible to attain international peace and security by scrupulously observing the norms and principles of its charter. We also believe it must be possible to reach an understanding with the United States and to normalize our bilateral relations with this country. We hope this will be possible in the next U.S. administration.

Our motto is, and will always be: Free fatherland or death. However, we want peace. Thus, we will continue defending our country's right to live in peace, and we will continue demanding respect for its inalienable right to self-determination and independence. Thank you, Mr President.

Honduran Troops Harass EPS Observation Posts

PA1410024588 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0227 GMT 14 Oct 88

[Text] On five occasions, Honduran soldiers harassed EPS observation posts in Chinandega and Nueva Segovia Departments. The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has reported that the harassment actions were carried out yesterday with M-16 and FAL rifles in La Ceiba, 5 km west of Somotillo, Chinandega Department. On the same day, Honduran troops opened fire four times on the observation post in Murupuchi, 4 km north of Teotecacinte, Nueva Segovia Department.

Presidency on Verification Group, U.S. Funds

PA1310132988 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1204 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Communique No 59 issued by the Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency in Managua on 12 October]

[Text] The Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency reports to the Nicaraguan people and the international community the facts about the resources that have come from the funds approved by the U.S. Congress and that have been used or brought into the country by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, about which there have been various reports.

1. The starting point in considering the action of the Verification Commission and its use of material resources is the Sapoa agreement, signed on 23 March 1988. Regarding the Verification Commission, the agreement states the following in Paragraph 9: For verifying the fulfillment of this agreement, a verification commission comprising Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, president of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference, and OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares will be established. The technical assistance and the necessary services so that this commission can expedite the fulfillment, follow-up, and verification of this agreement will be requested by and entrusted to the OAS secretary general.

2. Regarding the definition and the starting date of the verification, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo told Foreign Minister D'Escoto in a 29 April letter that he believed it was inappropriate that this be done because it should be agreed upon by the signatories to the Sapoa agreement.

3. Regarding the interpretation of Paragraph 9 of the Sapoa agreement and after an exchange of letters on this, the Verification Commission clearly established, as was stated in its 13 July letter to General Humberto Ortega, that from reading the paragraph, it is not inferred that the verification of specific actions that require technical assistance must be carried out by a single member of the Verification Commission. Instead, the OAS secretary general is in charge of providing the Verification Commission, comprising the two witneses, the technical assistance and the necessary services to undertake its task.

4. In July 1988, the Nicaraguan Government received a proposal from the Verification Commission about establishing an executive agreement on the basic conditions for the activities of the Verification Commission. This dealt with, among other aspects, tax exemptions, immunities, and the disposition of the commission's resources once its functions end.

5. On 25 August, the government replied to the previous proposal, saying it believed it was essential that the framework and content of the Verification Commission's work be formally defined, given the current stall in the Sapoa process. The counterrevolution fulfilled only two commitments: the informal acceptance of an indefinite suspension of offensive military operations and the existence of the Verification Commission. The same letter also indicated that once the framework and content of the Verification Commission's work were defined, it would be opportune to decide the basic conditions for its actions.

6. On 16 August, the Verification Commission sent our government a list of eight people who would form the commission that would undertake advance work for the investigations requested by the Nicaraguan Government to verify the violations of the suspension of offensive military operations by the counterrevolution. On 22 August, the Nicaraguan Government sent a letter to the Verification Commission questioning the participation of some of these people. One of those cases referred to a military man from the Dominican Republic and two of the other cases dealt with individuals with well-known Somozist backgrounds.

7. In view of the U.S. Congress' repeated policy of funding all kinds of aggression against the Nicaraguan people and government, the Nicaraguan Government

sent to the National Assembly a bill to prohibit the use of resources bought with the funds approved by the U.S. Congress. Included in the bill is an article that leaves open the possibility of allowing those funds destined to finance the Verification Commission, subject to an agreement between the Verification Commission and the Nicaraguan Government.

8. Through statements by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo to various news media, particularly to the newspaper LA PRENSA, it has been learned that more than 100 people are working on the verification effort. We have also learned that attempts are being made to obtain tax exemptions for more than 19 vehicles and for some equipment. The Nicaraguan Government is surprised about the activity reported by Cardinal Obando y Bravo because:

a. There is just one Verification Commission. All its actions, including the use of resources, must therefore be officially reported to the Nicaraguan Government by the commission, not unilaterally by one of its members.

b. Verification activities have been paralyzed while the approval of the framework and content of the Verification Commission's work is pending.

c. To use the resources bought with the AID funds, there must be an agreement between the Verification Commission and the Nicaraguan Government. The establishment of expensive representational offices in Washington and Miami, the signing of a large public relations contract, and other expenditures not in line with the Sapoa agreement or the role of the Verification Commission are very surprising.

The Nicaraguan Government hopes to reach an agreement on the framework and content of the verification with the Verification Commission so as to subsequently define the basic conditions for its activities. It will make efforts to speed up the necessary conditions for those activities. In this way, it hopes to contribute so the actions of the Verification Commission will correspond to the nature of the Sapoa agreement.

Managua, 12 October 1988

For an honorable peace, free fatherland or death!

[Signed] Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency

Cardinal Sees 'Slander Campaign' Against Church

PA1310162888 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Oct 88 pp 1, 12

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo by unidentified reporter—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] In an exclusive interview with LA PRENSA, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has referred to the slander campaign the progovernment media is carrying out against the church. In this interview, Obando y Bravo said "the Nicaraguan Government must explain its position and say if it wants the church to continue working for a reconciliation." [passage omitted]

Obando y Bravo added: "It has been said that we received $5 or 6 million, but no one has offered us anything. The church is not going to receive anything. We know certain media are trying to say half-truths, which are worse than lies." [passage omitted]

Cardinal Obando y Bravo, a top public figure and the most beloved and respected person to Nicaraguans and Central Americans because he is the top church authority in the area, said "the desire to tarnish the church's image is very clear." [passage omitted]

"A campaign is under way to try to discredit the church," he said, adding: "We agreed to work in the Verification Commission. When the AID assistance for the commission, made up of OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and myself, was discussed, we asked—in the presence of Nicaraguan Government and RN delegates at the Camino Real Hotel—if this aid could be used."

"On that occasion," the cardinal recalled, "General Humberto Ortega, the president's brother, replied: This aid can be granted and can be used for verification. It is strange that there are now some who are denying this and expressing surprise."

He acknowledged that the commission has been using part of this aid to pay more than 100 people who are working full time in the verification effort and that some vehicles that will travel in the war zones have been purchased. The cardinal added:

"When the government asked the church to participate in the verification, we understood that we were only going to sign a paper and do just what the OAS would decide. Since we agreed to participate in the verification, then we must act responsibly and use qualified people in this verification process."

"The Nicaraguan Government must explain if it wants the church to continue working on the Verification Commission, because staffers of this commission have been harassed by Sandinist government officials."

Obando y Bravo recalled the campaign the government has been carrying out against the church—a campaign that has gone from expelling priests to sending groups of criminals to insult the curia, and has culminated in this new slander campaign by the government media—and said: "A campaign is under way to harass the church."

"Even if the Verification Commission's activities are at a standstill, we must continue working for reconciliation. We must imitate Christ, who is our path, truth, and life. Christ came to knock down the walls that separated

people. I believe we must knock down the wall of hatred to see if it is possible for Nicaraguans to live in peace and brotherhood," he concluded. [passage omitted]

Godoy: Charges 'Ridiculous'

PA1310204388 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] The campaign the government is launching against Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo over the issue of the vehicles is ridiculous, Virgilio Godoy, leader of the Independent Liberal Party, told this news program today. He noted that when the day for verifying a cease-fire comes, the verification cannot be made by using rocking horses. Godoy said the campaign is ridiculous because everyone knows the Sandinist commanders ride around in luxury cars.

Regardless of how much they attack Cardinal Obando y Bravo, the Sandinists will not be able to discredit him because all the Nicaraguan people know that all the efforts he is making aim to secure peace in Nicaragua, Godoy said. He added: We Nicaraguans are grateful to Cardinal Obando y Bravo.

Government Suspends Radio Mundial Newscast

PA1310231788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2229 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Managua, 13 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government has indefinitely suspended the radio newscast of the Higher Council for Private Enterprise (COSEP), an internal opposition organization, for "slandering" Sandinist authorities, it was reported today to ACAN-EFE by Francisco Rivas, director of the newscast.

The broadcasts of the radio-magazine "El Nicaraguense," issued over Radio Mundial, a private radio station in this capital, were suspended effective today for violating the provisional law on communication media, the source added.

The authorities ordered the indefinite closure of "El Nicaraguense" because it broadcast statements issued by contra leader Wilfredo Montalban, who compared the Sandinist government with the "criminal dictatorship being withstood by the Chilean people."

According to the government order, Montalban asserted that "Pinochet is a tame dove compared with the Ortega brothers (Nicaraguan president and defense minister) and Tomas Borge (Nicaraguan interior minister)."

The Interior Ministry asserted the radio-magazine was closed because in issuing Montalban's statements, it implied Ortega and Borge are "veritable monsters."

COSEP's newscast "has continued with its defamation campaign against the government despite warnings and fines" against the radio newscast, the Nicaraguan Defense [as received] Ministry communique emphasizes.

"El Nicaraguense" was temporarily suspended several months ago because it broadcast a false report on the death of a worker who was demanding a salary increase by going on a hunger strike in an opposition labor union's facilities.

Helicopter Rockets Accidentally Fired; 6 Injured

PA1410040188 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Oct 88 pp 1, 5

[Excerpt] Juigalpa—Six people, including some minors, were injured and several houses were partially damaged when five rockets were accidentally fired from an Mi-17 helicopter at 0740 yesterday while flying over a village in Juigalpa.

According to preliminary official reports on the incident, a technical team was inspecting the aircraft and mistakenly activated the weapons system.

The explosions were heard in a block next to the bullfighting ring. The walls of San Francisco de Asis Cultural Theater and another four houses were damaged.

Gladys Chavez Centeno, Leopoldo Morales Centeno, Haizel Calero Bermudez, Doriselda Martinez Urbina, her mother Maria Urbina Maratinez, and Rafael Gonzalez Acevedo, a child who was taken to Lenin Fonseca Hospital in grave condition with possible brain damage, were hit by shrapnel.

The Defense Ministry issued a bulletin reporting this incident yesterday. It stated that "during a technical inspection of an Mi-17 helicopter, registry No 318, the weapons system was accidentally activated, firing the helicopter's rockets, which hit the southwest sector of Juigalpa.

"The Sandinist Air Force," the military bulletin continued, "and the Fifth Military Region command appointed a technical commission to conduct a thorough investigation of the aircraft and the technical personnel who operated the helicopter to determine the causes and responsibilities of this regrettable accident, the results of which will be disclosed at the end of the investigation. [no closing quotation mark as published]

It was added that the EPS deplores "this tragic accident that affected the people of Juigalpa." [passage omitted]

Panama

FDP Denies Reports on Costa Rica Incursion

PA1310153288 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 13 Oct 88 pp 1, 14

[Text] Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, director of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Public Relations Office, has told CRITICA that international news reports about an alleged incursion by FDP forces into Costa Rican territory on 11 October are completely false and groundless.

According to Maj Lopez, Lieutenant Elidio Gonzalez of the Peace Battalion has written a report that states the following: "At 1220 on 11 October 1988, we were patrolling an area under our responsibility in La Union, near the border with Costa Rica, when we were approached by Costa Rican Planning Minister Jorge Monge, who asked us if we had been authorized to patrol Costa Rican territory. I told him we were in a border area for which we have to provide security."

"He asked us if we were asking for permission to do so in Costa Rican territory. We told him that was not the case, because we know the border perfectly well, and we are not crazy—we would not do such a thing. We made no threats and were not hostile at any time, and we never pointed a gun at anyone. We never entered Costa Rican territory."

Our source deplored the lack of knowledge of the border area of a Costa Rican official who apparently had never been there and who ignores the fact that the border corridor has been used by the two countries for the past 20 years to serve mutual interests.

Maj Lopez said Panama knows that some people who do not live in the border area have been filing protests that are a result of foreign pressure to promote discord between two sister nations that have a common border.

The FDP spokesman said "news reports are speculative and misguiding, something that the Costa Rican authorities will consider once this irksome situation is cleared."

Maj Lopez told CRITICA that "the lack of knowledge that those who produced the reports have of their own territory and history as well as of the nature and way of thinking of their fellow countrymen who live in that border region is regrettable."

According to Maj Lopez, "the fact that the number of groundless protests has increased in these days of weighty decisions in the northern country is a notorious situation. I do not want to think that those who are adding fuel to the fire of disinformation would want to see U.S. soldiers protecting their borders."

The FDP spokesman concluded by stating: "For more than 2 months, Costa Rican authorities have refused to satisfy the demands of the border region's populace by meeting with Panamanian authorities."

Report of Secret Noriega Bank Account Cited

PA1410010388 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2330 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] The Panamanian branch of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International had a clandestine secret service account that was personally managed by General Manuel Antonio Noriega since 1982.

Based on statements by the bank's director to a congressional committee, the account balance at one point reached $25 million, according to a Washington, DC-datelined EFE dispatch.

U.S. authoritities accused the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, headquartered in Luxembourg with branches throughout the world, of having laundered more than $32 million for the world's main drug-trafficking mafias.

According to EFE, Pakistani Amjad Awan, former director of the Panamanian branch of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that after the account was opened, he met every month with Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces, to discuss his finances.

EFE noted Awan testified behind closed doors, but the Senate committee, in view of a suit against the bank, disclosed the contents of the hearing in Washington last night.

Crusade on Willingness To Talk With Government

PA1310210588 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2046 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Panama City, 13 Oct (DPA)—A spokesman of the opposition Civic Crusade revealed today in Panama City that the multisector organization would be willing to talk with Manuel Solis Palma's government if the citizens' rights in the national Constitution are fully restored.

"The Civic Crusade has never rejected an agreement through political negotiation, but is it necessary to have the appropriate atmosphere—which is currently not available because opponents are detained and news media and enterprises have been closed down," the Civic Crusade source said.

The opposition organization's leader added that Solis Palma's government "must also prove its goodwill to attain a negotiated solution by restoring the Panamanian people's rights."

The Civic Crusade has been struggling against the civil government in Panama and General Manuel Antonio Noriega for the last 16 months.

Minister: Independence Day Parade Canceled

PA1410030688 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Panamanian Education Minister Rolando Murgas has said there will not be an Independence Day parade in Panama, following recommendations made by the commission appointed to assess the suitability of holding the parade.

[Begin Murgas recording] We received a recommendation sent by the commission in charge of organizaing the parade. The commission recommended against holding the general Independence Day parade. The parade issue was in fact discussed at a State Council meeting.

We believe there are many reasons leading to that recommendation. The country's economic and political situation, the money parents are forced to spend during these parades, and the possibility of a distortion of the civic function of the independence parade—because of the current local conflict—are some of those reasons. We do not want to run any risks. We will study and pass this recommendation on to the executive branch.

I believe the commission's recommendation is appropriate. We had already mentioned the possibility of canceling the Independence Day parade. This cancellation does not mean there will not be civic ceremonies in the various communities and schools, which can organize such ceremonies. [end recording]

Lakas Denies Reports on Presidential Nomination

PA1310023588 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 12 Oct 88 p 10

[Text] Former Panamanian President Demetrio Basilio Lakas has said: "Not even if a machinegun were pointed at my chest would I accept the presidential nomination for the upcoming 7 May 1989 elections. [no closing quotation mark as published] Those statements deny news reports claiming that Lakas is a potential presidential candidate for the Democratic Revolutionary Party.

"I do not know why people say that. No one has talked to me about that. Those are news reports and nothing else," Lakas said after a ceremony held at the Nuevo Panama Gymnasium to commemorate the anniversary of the 11 October revolution.

Demetrio Lakas, who was the president of Panama between 1971 and 1978, has been the only president to complete his presidential term since the revolutionary process began.

Commentator Attacks Southern Command Newspaper

PA1310130388 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Oct 88

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In July, when President Reagan ordered his advisers to begin a new offensive against Panama, the U.S. Southern Command took the place of Ambassador Arthur Davis and [Deputy Chief of Mission] John Maisto.

The Southern Command went from being a military strategic command to becoming the center of the anti-Panamanian subversion. The Southern Command's credibility dropped to the level of a gossip mill. THE TROPIC TIMES, the Southern Command newspaper, has not escaped this rapid deterioration. This publication has become an insolent, libelous, and crude newspaper that abuses its status as a means of communications funded by the Defense Department budget.

We tell the Southern Command's Psychological Operations Branch: We want to live in peace.

This is the sad situation: General Frederick Woerner travelled many times to Washington to express disagreement with the continuous mistakes Washington was making with regard to Panama.

Woerner publicly disagreed with the top levels of the Reagan administration. In the end, however, he was unable to escape the fate of other great military men like General Douglas MacArthur or John Singlaub. Woerner has been involved in a psychological war whose results he does not believe in. Politicians have dragged Woerner to the ridiculous position he is now in.

THE TROPIC TIMES is now the most aggressive spokesman of the Panamanian opposition. It publishes the systematic propaganda campaign of U.S. newspapers such as THE WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON. Wichita is a small town lost in the state of Kansas.

THE TROPIC TIMES also publishes attacks on President Manuel Solis Palma and, recently, published insults against me, ignoring that all the governments I have been linked with in my journalistic career have been favorite sons of the United States.

The miseries and conflicts of Latin America have always borne the Made in U.S.A label. THE TROPIC TIMES ignored my long years of journalism in Caracas, Guatemala, Costa Rica, New York, and Miami, where I ran magazines and radio programs and also worked as a television commentator, as I am doing here in Panama.

As the height of its outrages, THE TROPIC TIMES speaks in favor of Ricardo Arias Calderon, the candidate of the U.S. establishment, calling him the democratic president Panama needs.

The U.S. State Department always supports Christian Democrats, and you can see the results of that in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Let the libelous newspaper financed by the Defense Department continue slandering those of us who uncover and announce to the public all the U.S. maneuvers.

We, because of our experience, have thick skin. We are like those who cover themselves with Teflon: All the insults and misery of THE TROPIC TIMES slide by; they do not bother us. We will continue pointing out the psychological operations because we repeat: We want and have the right to live in peace. We will always defend that peace from the Southern Command, its Psychological Operations Branch, and the grotesque open U.S. intervention in this small country.

IAPA Cites Country's Lack of Press Freedom

PA1410031688 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] This year's Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Freedom of the Press Prize, IAPA's highest award, was given to the principal directors of the newspapers LA PRENSA of Nicaragua and LA PRENSA of Panama. UPI has reported that Roberto Eisenmann and Winston Robles [publisher and director, respectively, of Panama City LA PRENSA] will receive the award for the Panamanian newspaper.

IAPA announced the awards today during the last day of its 44th meeting in Salt Lake City. According to UPI, IAPA announced at the meeting that the Panamanian newspaper received the prize for its defense of freedom of information. The Panamanian Government closed down Panama's LA PRENSA in February 1988.

Moreover, IAPA today included Panama in a list of countries in the Western Hemisphere in which there is no freedom of the press. Other countries on the list are Chile, Nicaragua, Cuba, and Paraguay.

UPI added that the IAPA report included a chapter on Panama that recounted the press situation in Panama since February, when the government closed the newspapers LA PRENSA, EXTRA, and EL SIGLO; Panavision television channel 5; the weekly QUIUBO; and six radio stations because of the political crisis.

In conclusion, the IAPA report cited by UPI said freedom of expression and the right to information have disappeared in Panama, adding that those who have fought to preserve both have suffered all sorts of persecution and harassment.

Meeting Criticized

PA1410040988 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Oct 88

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] Today we are in Salt Lake City, the most important city of the State of Utah. This State of Utah is internationally famous because the famous Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, known as Mormons in Latin America, is headquartered there.

The 44th annual assembly of the Inter-American Press Association, IAPA, is taking place in Salt Lake City. As expected, Panama's newspaper LA PRENSA, which is supported, financed, and used by the United States to destabilize this country, received awards. With these awards, Messrs Roberto Eisenmann and Winston Robles gained access to the hall of fame of the heroes of freedom of the press of Latin America.

Of course, these heroes fabricated by the United States are paper mache heroes; they are mud, celluloid heroes. Any small flame, the flame of truth, would destroy them. They cannot resist that flame.

Messrs Eisenmann and Robles, who live in beautiful residences filled with telephones, computers, thick carpets, and central air conditioners in Miami, are the heroes of freedom of the press.

Nobody is talking about the writers and workers of LA PRENSA who are suffering from hunger because of their insensitive director, who was born in Panama and whose heart is a cash register. Nobody is talking about those young men who used to print newspapers every dawn and who are now unable to earn bread for their families, because Mr Eisenmann likes to play the subversion game with impunity in his capacity as U.S. agent. We must talk about them today.

Besides being a destabilizer, Eisenmann is a habitual unemployer, because he fails to ensure the seriousness and objectivity of his newspaper—much less does he think about how he is endangering those who work for the newspaper on 11 October Avenue to earn their daily bread. As all demagogues, Eisenmann, Winston Robles, and Guillermo Sanchez Borbon believe a newspaper is a cannon to destroy forts, demolish reputations, and poison society. However, IAPA rewards that kind of journalism; it calls LA PRENSA an independent newspaper. Before being born, that newspaper was already a Yankee abortion.

Finally, it also includes Panama among the countries having no freedom of speech. This is a very disturbing list. Cuba is listed as having none for 29 years; Paraguay, Chile, and Nicaragua are also on it. It contains a long list of people IAPA attacks in its assemblies, always following U.S. guideliness.

However, there was something else at this IAPA meeting. The 44th assembly also promoted discussion on the platforms of presidential candidates Michael Dukakis and George Bush. Abraham Rosenthal, spokesman for the Democratic Party and director of foreign relations [as heard] at the University of Southern California, said Reagan has implemented a mistaken and weak foreign policy. As usual, Panama continues to be ever present in the entire electoral campaign as the great problem of this world at the end of the century. Regarding Panama, Mr Rosenthal said the Reagan administration has made a macho display after having flirted with and maintained very close relations with General Manuel Antonio Noriega. There is no event of the electoral campaign in which Panama is not mentioned. This small country is a protagonist in the electoral campaign of the world's strongest power. Naivete? Clumsiness? Nothing of that. The objective is to pave the way for greater measures: large-scale, demolishing aggressions. To annihilate and destroy this country, they must convince the U.S. people there are serious problems here and the fate of U.S. national security depends on Panama.

New Daily Appears, Vows To Help Attain Peace

PA1310032188 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 12 Oct 88 p 5

[Editorial: "A True Newspaper"]

[Text] Welcome to MEDIODIA...!

...a real newspaper...

This is a new newspaper created with the purest professionalism, a tradition of the true Panamanian press. It is a newspaper inspired by the example of those who, in the past, practiced this profession with profound dedication.

It is a new newspaper that will cultivate these ideals: truth, respect, and devotion within a modern framework which, thanks to the marvelous technique of computers and the electronic era, allows us to offer a clear, creative, and bold publication to our readers....

It is a new newspaper published with the experience of some and the journalistic boldness of young, qualified Panamanian professionals, who have joined the large number of newspaper reporters....

MEDIODIA has been designed and published to:

—inform and guide readers...

—be critical of and advise our leaders...

—be competitive and challenging to our colleagues...

—be beneficial to and productive for our advertisers...

MEDIODIA has come into our national life at a difficult time for the fatherland. It has begun operations with a most profound desire to help, in the best way possible, to achieve peace, vowing to serve the country as a mirror that will reflect all of the nation's news. It will serve as a mirror in which we can get an overall perspective on our problems with the aim of finding solutions to them. It will be a mirror in which we can see all the opportunities and positive actions that could help to improve conditions for our people....

Those of us who today began the hard work of putting out this newspaper truly wish to receive from our readers the support and devotion that can only be gained when one abides by the truth and rejects slander, lies, and insults in one's labors....

Welcome, then, to MEDIODIA, the newspaper that only wishes to gain recognition, not because of its format, but for its contents, just...

like a real newspaper...!

Country's 'Revolution' Brings Hunger, Misery

PA1310121488 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 12 Oct 88 p 4

["As I See it" column by Lucho Pimentel: "By Way of an Introduction"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] As I see it, the Panamanian revolution has only brought more hunger and misery to our people. Instead of growing, the private sector has shrunk. Health programs are only shadows of what used to heal the sick; housing programs are like daydreams; and job offers simply do not exist. However, large government political parties have been formed, and a swarm of advisers and experts has formed a new social class. From old Volkswagens they have gone on to impressive four-wheel-drive vehicles—all under the magnificent excuse that they are high-ranking officials entitled to "milk the government." They have done so with olympian contempt for good people who have done nothing but nobly endure the situation. Those people, souls haunted by their needs, will take the right track once the trumpets of hunger call at their doors. From that springboard of great events, those people will break the head of oppression.

Tax Clearance Certificates Valid for 30 Days

PA1310193288 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Ricardo Levi, Finance Ministry Revenue Office director, has told the National Information System that tax clearance certificates [paz y salvos] are being issued; however, these are only valid for 30 days. [passage omitted]

Regarding Panama Canal Commission employees who as a result of a U.S. Government decision have not paid their taxes, Ricardo Levi said they will not be eligible for a tax clearance certificate. The tax clearance certificate will only be issued to Panama Canal Commission employees for humanitarian reasons. [passage omitted]

Argentina

Arsenal Discovered in Military Prison Cell

PY1410013588 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1732 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Exceprt] Buenos Aires, 13 Oct (DYN)—Today reliable sources revealed that an arsenal has been discovered in a Campo de Mayo military prison cell. This cell was occupied by Captain Victor Alejandro Gallo, one of the Army officers who participated in the 1987 Holy Week rebellion. Gallo is also facing trial for his participation in a bogus judicial establishment [not further specified] in some downtown offices in this capital.

Due to this discovery, the Army command first informed the federal court and then ordered that Capt Gallo be transferred to the Monte Caseros prison.

Sources consulted by DYN, who asked not to be identified, reported that Gallo had in his cell five 9-mm Browning pistols, one of which has been prepared with a reversible butt and a silencer; on 6.35-mm Mauser pistol; one 45-caliber Ballester Molina pistol; an automatic rifle with a telescopic sight; a special long-barrel 38-caliber Smith Wesson revolver, clips, and ammunition. [passage omitted]

Human Remains Found Near Mar del Plata

PY1310210688 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Human remains found on a ranch called La Peregrina, owned by Juan Manuel Bordeu, located on Sierra de los Padres, near Balcarce and 50 km from Mar del Plata, in Buenos Aries Province, could be the bodies of missing people. This was reported today by the daily PAGINA 12 which states that there used to be a clandestine concentration camp in the area, as charged in 1977 by the Clandestine News Agency [Agencia Clandestina de Noticias].

Emilio Leone, Bordeu's ranch hand found 30 sets of bones [piezas oseas] while digging a hole. It must be recalled that the Clandestine News Agency—founded by Roberto Walsh—continued working even after Walsh was kidnapped by members of the Navy Mechanics School, where he allegedly died of torture.

The Clandestine News Agency report then stated: The following military units operate in the area: the Army air defense artillery group No 601, under the orders of Colonel Pedro Barda; an air base under the command of Colonel Ernesto Agustoni; and the largest submarine base in South America, under the command of Captain Juan Jose Lombardo.

Juan Manuel Bordeu, a former race driver, was surprised this morning by the news that a clandestine concentration camp used to operate in his Sierra de los Padres ranch. Bordeu, who is currently in Porto Alegre, Brazil, said that he will travel to Buenos Aires tonight to immediately see to the case concerning the human remains found on his ranch.

During those painful years for many Argentines, he said, the only thing he heard is that there were strange movements in nearby hills. A great many people said that the hills were used by the guerrillas as a hiding place, while others claimed that the Army patrolled the area. Since the Balcarce satellite antenna is placed there, the area had to be well cared for at the time, Bordeu said.

He added: I was never told anything by the Navy or the Army, therefore I know nothing. Bordeu, also a former sports secretary of Buenos Aires Province in times of the military regime, said: You can imagine that I would have never allowed such activities on my ranch. He confirmed that he is traveling to Mar del Plata today to learn more about the case.

Missing Soldier's Body, Four Others Found

PY1310195188 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] The remains of a soldier (Pedro Luis Masocci), who disappeared in the city of Tandil have been found. His parents last saw him at the Tandil air base infirmary, where (Masocci) was being held. Shortly afterwards, (Masocci's) parents were told that their son had escaped.

The Buenos Aires Federal Court ordered the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team to exhume the remains. This is one of several measures adopted by the court to conclude investigations into human rights violations in the I Army Corps.

The people who hired the undertaker to bury (Masocci) have been identified as Commodore Raul Perez Apolonio, who was the mayor of Moron, a Buenos Aires suburb, at the time (Masocci) disappeared and Vice Commodore Eduardo Gaboso, Moron's Social Welfare Secretary at that time.

Four more bodies, which are said to belong to missing people, were also found.

Bolivia

Navy Reportedly Protecting Drug Traffickers

PY1310151288 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] The remarks made by Interior Ministry Social Defense Under Secretary Jorge Alderete Rosales, claiming that the Bolivian Navy is protecting drug trafficking activities in the Puerto Villarroel area, have shocked the entire Bolivian community.

The possible involvement of Navy personnel in illegal actions has caused significant concern in our country.

The fact that five high-ranking officers have been discharged for being involved in drug trafficking activities has prompted additional announcements in the past few hours, stating that the Navy personnel serving in Puerto Villarroel have been involved in very suspicious actions.

According to Alderete Rosales, the National Antinarcotics Force organization is investigating the situation in order to clearly determine any abnormality in the Puerto Villarroel area.

Officials Reject Charges

PY1310163488 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran has said that he will order a report on the protection that the Bolivian Navy may be giving to drug trafficking.

Duran said that if Social Defense Under Secretary Jorge Alderete does not submit that report today he will have to publicly withdraw his charge involving the Armed Forces in drug trafficking. Duran, however, refused to comment whether he will ask Alderete to resign.

[Begin Duran recording] Today I will instruct Social Defense Under Secretary Alderete to prove this statement. Otherwise, he will have to publicly withdraw the charges. [end recording]

Defense Minister Alfonso Rebollo has termed Alderete's statement as irresponsible, adding that he has conveyed his protest to the Interior Ministry.

[Begin Rebollo recording] Alderete's statement is unethical, irresponsible and impolite. Therefore, I categorically reject it. I believe that an under secretary has no authority to make such statements especially when they involve the Armed Forces. Furthermore, I will convey my protest to the Interior Ministry so that action can be taken against this official. [end recording]

Rebollo added that this type of statement causes unrest in the military sector because the Armed Forces support the current Bolivian economic and democratic process.

Brazil

Sodre Says Sarney's Visit to USSR 'Historical'

PY1410023788 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre has stated that the visit President Jose Sarney will make to the Soviet Union, beginning tomorrow, will be a historical one.

This is the first time in 160 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries that a Brazilian chief of state will visit the Soviet Union.

[Begin Sodre recording] This opening that President Sarney is carrying out in his international policy strengthens the policy he wants to consolidate. We have conducted this policy in Latin America, in Africa, in the First World, and now we are also doing the same with the Soviet Union, which undoubtedly is a great socialist, Marxist power. Now that there are no longer ideological frontiers, we can conduct political talks and talks on good trade, technological, and cultural relations with the Soviet Union. [end recording]

The Governments of Brazil and of the Soviet Union will sign 10 documents that will facilitate greater rapprochement between the two countries.

Overnight Rate Hiked by Mistake, Stock Plunges

PY1310174088 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Early this morning the Brazilian Government decided to adjust the LFT, that is, the Treasury Financial Bond [Letra Financiera do Tesouro]. The Central Bank increased the overnight interest rate to 50 percent per month, which represents a net monthly rate of 31 percent.

The increase in the overnight rate caused the stock markets to plunge. Between 1100 and 1115 this morning, the Sao Paulo stock exchange plunged 7 percent while the Rio de Janeiro stock exchange fell 5.5 percent. After midday the situation reversed and the stock markets began to recover. [passage omitted]

A few minutes ago we received a report from Brasilia. According to the Planalto Palace there has been a crass mistake. Juarez Soares, public debt director of the Central Bank increased the overnight rate to 50 percent without consulting with the president of the Central Bank or the Finance Ministry. Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega met with Central Bank President Elmo Camoes a short while ago to study the situation caused by the increase of the interest rate.

Official Dismissed

PY1410024888 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Today President Jose Sarney dismissed Juarez Soares, director of the Public Debt department of the Central Bank, following a suggestion by Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega.

The finance minister, who did not approve the measure adopted by Juarez Soares, still has not decided on his replacement.

[Begin relay from Finance Ministry] Late this afternoon, the Finance Ministry announced the dismissal of Juarez Soares, public debt director of the Central Bank.

According to close aides of the finance minister, Nobrega did not agree with Juarez Soares' decision to authorize the increase of the overnight market interest rates.

As soon as he learned of the interest rate increase, Minister Nobrega phoned President Sarney to inform him that he would dismiss the public debt director. The president agreed with him.

According to the aides, the finance minister requested an investigation of the technical reasons for the public debt director's decision. Mailson da Nobrega believes that the increase should have been implemented gradually and not in a single day by increasing the overnight interest rates from 39 percent to 50 percent.

It is yet unknown who will be the new public debt director, but the finance minister already has a long list of possible names. The appointment of the new public debt director will nonetheless be made in common agreement with the president of the Central Bank, President Sarney and himself. After the name is chosen it will be submitted to the Federal Senate for approval, according to article No 52 of the Constitution.

The public debt director's dismissal was announced soon after a meeting between Central Bank Director Elmo Camoes and Minister Nobrega. Camoes did not make any statements as he left the Finance Ministry. All he said was that he was on his way to work [end relay].

Chile

Pinochet Supporters' Recriminations Begin

PY1310133388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0001 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Santiago, 13 Oct (EFE)—It was reported today that a wave of accusations and recriminations has begun among the parties and movements that supported President Augusto Pinochet in the plebiscite on 5 October 1988.

Following the defeat of the yes-vote in the plebiscite—which means that Pinochet will have to relinquish the Presidency in 1990 to a president elected in free elections which would take place by the end of 1989—Pinochet's supporters have engaged in a war of mutual recriminations.

Sergio Onofre Jarpa, former interior minister and current president of the National Renewal Party, said that "the leaders should assume the responsibility, because soldiers do not loose battles."

In Concepcion, in southern Chile, the president of the now dissolved civic committee, Alvaro Cabello, has complained that he was not consulted during the campaign. Other National Renewal Party leaders have agreed with him.

Abraham Abrilot, president of the Chilean Committee of Independents, has requested the resignation of Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez and of all "middle level" officials.

Abrilot added that Lieutenant Colonel Hernan Nunez, director of the government's civilian organizations, did not provide the elements that his movement needed for the campaign.

The independent leader also harshly criticized the businessmen for the yes-vote and the civic committee when he asked "where are the 3 million independents mentioned by Messrs (Jorge) Fontaine and (Alvaro) Cabello."

The youth sector of the National Vanguard Party attributed General Pinochet's defeat to "the lack of coordination among those who supported the yes-vote, beginning with the leaderships of the political parties."

The reactions of those who support Pinochet also include the known desire that the current chief of state should not be chosen as a candidate for the presidential elections. This is expressly banned by the Constitution, according to legal experts.

The Independent Democratic Union (UDI), one of the most important parties among those that support the military regime, has confirmed that it is "obviously" impossible for Pinochet to be named a candidate.

The UDI has urged Pinochet to take on the task "of supporting a potentially successful candidate," something that could be termed "a great gesture" by the chief of state, according to this party.

The Radical Democratic Party, which also supported Pinochet, has officially declared that it is not willing to propose Pinochet as a candidate and that it will propose the name of one of its members. The proposal will then be debated by all the parties that share its rightist political ideology.

Disputes have also flared up in other sectors, such as that of the public opinion polls.

An executive of the Skopus enterprise, one of the firms contracted by the government to carry out public opinion polls and always give the yes-vote as winner by an ample margin, has accused Orlando Poblete, minister secretary general of government, of not making public the polls that did not favor the government.

Augusto Noceda, a Skopus executive, has stressed that the last poll, which was carried out 2 days before the plebiscite, gave the no-vote as winner, but the results of his poll were not disseminated "because the client owns the poll information."

Poblete answered this accusation replying that the information provided by Skopus "was handed directly to the high ranking authorities of the government," and he rejected the accusation that the details of the poll "had presumably been altered."

Minister Reasserts Firm Government Position

PY1310134788 Santiago Television Nacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 12 Oct 88

[Text] Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez reiterated today a call on the government's partisans to remain calm and moderate. He urged them to continue working with the same faith and energy that they have shown until now. This is the statement by Minister Fernandez:

[Begin Fernandez recording] The constitutional dictates, which were followed before and during the plebiscite, will also be followed after the plebiscite. The president reasserted this as soon as the results were known. This is the commitment of honor assumed by the government, the Armed Forces, and the forces of order. The Constitution will be adhered to without hesitation or weakness. Therefore, the government has not considered, nor will it consider, any change whatsoever in the Constitution as far as the timetable, the effects, the non-reelection provision, or any other provision is concerned. Any statement to the contrary has no real foundation.

As announced earlier, any talks with groups of the democratic opposition will be conducted through the normal channels that have been established by the government. A flexible and pragmatic attitude will be adopted to that effect. Nevertheless, we must reiterate that such contacts are not contemplated for the time being. We also reiterate our call on those who gave their support to the government in the plebiscite to remain united and calm, because this is where our strength lies. This strength will help determine the country's future. Those who attach a different significance to this call are greatly mistaken.

This call is intended to bring tranquillity to the millions of Chileans who are afraid of a return to the past. They have responsibly and clearly understood both the supporters of the government and the democratic oppositionists. The whole country has witnessed the nation's tranquillity during the days that followed the plebiscite, there have been no acts of violence to deplore.

This position contrasts, with the Communist attempt to deny the normality of the plebiscite, calling fraudulent the 43 percent of the votes obtained by the government. This only reveals the great importance that the Marxists attach to this percentage, and with good reason.

On the other hand, the government's call on its partisans to maintain order and unity is making an impact. Proof of this is the fact that the supporters of the government have already begun to regroup their ranks with a view to adequately participate in the presidential elections. Conscious of the situation, our partisans have realized that a division in their ranks will only ensure the success of the opposition.

The government is naturally inclined to analyze, with its partisans, the process leading to—and the effects of—the plebiscite, so as to make the necessary corrections in the upcoming electoral campaign. The government believes that this analysis should be made internally, within the circles of its partisan forces, not publicly for the benefit of the opposition.

I therefore reiterate the call to all democrats, especially the millions of partisans of the government, to remain calm and moderate, and to continue to work with the same faith and energy as they have done up until now, to ensure the country's progress. [end recording]

Aylwin Interviewed on Plebiscite Result

PM1310150688 Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 10 Oct 88 p 9

[Report on interview with Christian Democratic Party leader Patricio Aylwin by Santiago Palacios; date, place not given]

[Text] Santiago—"Pinochet is undermining the referendum result. He has recognized the opposition's victory but refuses to do what the people want. The general is certainly an insurmountable obstacle to the democratic transition." This observation was made by Christian Democrat leader Patricio Aylwin, who has become a symbol of the opposition during this referendum.

His face seems indissolubly linked with the night of victory and he is being mentioned as a candidate for next year's elections, though he said: "It is not in my plans; I have no presidential ambitions and in any case a future candidate must enjoy the maximum support." He did admit that "if I were offered it I would be placed in a serious predicament."

Aylwin, 69, a Christian Democratic Party member since 1945, married with 5 children and 10 grandchildren, an attorney and law professor at Chile University, was involved with his party in the 1973 coup, as the dictatorship emphasized during the referendum campaign. Nevertheless he said: "We did our utmost to avert the coup. I even negotiated personally two or three times with Salvador Allende, but it all failed. In 1976 we realized that the Armed Forces were not honoring the pledge to restore democracy and the dictator's personalism increased, so we went into opposition."

In his interview with LA VANGUARDIA he voiced his fears about the transition: "I do not know what will happen with this obstinate man. He suffered a very major psychological blow with his defeat, but then I

believe his calculations prevailed: Hence his decision not to make any ministerial changes and to address the country as though nothing had happened.

[Palacios] So how can a dialogue with the Armed Forces be initiated?

[Aylwin] We respect the Armed Forces' hierarchical institutional status and do not intend to disrupt it. We believe, however, that the rational nature of our stances means that they will be accepted by the political parties supporting the government and by the military. For instance, National Renewal and the UDI [expansion unknown] have asserted the desirability of changing the system for constitutional amendments. Jarpa Reyes has just approved it. I believe that such contacts can occur—first, unofficially, then, publicly.

[Palacios] Is the inflexibility just on Pinochet's part or is it shared by the Armed Forces as a whole?

[Aylwin] I tend to believe that it is the attitude of Pinochet and his closest circle. He opposes not only constitutional changes but anything entailing progress toward democracy. I have reason to believe that his position is not shared by the other Armed Forces and I even doubt whether all the Army leaders support it.

[Palacios] Are there any proposals for a rapprochement with the military?

[Aylwin] We are working on some ideas with a view to initiating a process of consultations.

[Palacios] Have there been any contacts—even in secret—with military leaders?

[Aylwin] No, absolutely not.

[Palacios] Do you believe that Pinochet's aim in adopting his present attitude is to exacerbate the confrontation and to isolate the moderate sectors?

[Aylwin] The fact is that the parties in favor of the "no" vote are all agreed on what strategy to pursue. In due course we will present the Armed Forces with our joint demands, and I do not believe that the parties in favor of consultations are willing to relinquish their strength, irrespective of Pinochet's provocations. [Aylwin ends]

Throughout our conversation Aylwin constantly referred to 5 October: "It was memorable. There was a historic desire to participate and great civic maturity was displayed as hours went by and the government did not recognize the victory, thus creating a climate of uncertainty and expectation.

[Palacios] Did you suspect a coup or a maneuver?

[Aylwin] It seemed suspicious to us that the ministry fell silent after announcing a few figures. As you know, you can always expect anything from Pinochet. In this instance a war could have broken out. However, the citizens answered our call, stayed home, and avoided provocative acts. Perhaps the government was seeking a chaotic situation to provide it with a pretext for suspending the process and rejecting the referendum result.

[Palacios] To what do you chiefly attribute the last-minute turnabout in favor of the "no" vote which produced a comfortable victory?

[Aylwin] I believe the vast majority of Chileans managed to shed their fear and expressed their inner feelings. I believe that the majority of those who voted "yes" did so because they could not shed their fear. However, those who did so expressed their weariness with their ruler for the past 15 years, their logical weariness with the state of martial law that has existed during these years and with the unjust policy that has benefited a minority. Basically, there was a desire to restore peaceful coexistence in the country. [Aylwin ends]

There are doubts among officials, and even within opposition ranks, about how agreement and a joint strategy can be organized between the DC and left-wing groups. Aylwin firmly believes in the agreements reached, for instance, with Ricardo Nunez' Socialists and former foreign minister, Clodomiro Almeyda.

[Palacios] What kind of relations will exist with the Communists, however?

[Aylwin] Our attitude toward the Communist Party will remain the same as always. We are clear and definite adversaries of the Communist Party. There is a definite antagonism toward them because we disagree on principles, objectives, and methods. Even so, however, we have always been in favor of the Communist Party, like all other parties, being allowed to be active in political life, without restrictions.

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

PY1310214288 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 13 Oct 88 p 12

[Text] Foreign Minister Rodney Elpidio Acevedo stressed yesterday before the United Nations that the Paraguayan Government "is struggling against the scourge of drugs with all its legal and moral resources." He also condemned international terrorism and the nuclear arms race, urging that peace and security be sought and preserved. Acevedo also stressed that the technology of the industrialized countries be placed at the service of the less developed countries, and he requested that the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other nations be strictly observed.

Our country's foreign minister, Rodney Elpidio Acevedo, addressed the 43d UN General Assembly in New York during the afternoon of 12 October.

At the beginning of his address, Acevedo greeted UN General Assembly President Dante Caputo, the Argentine foreign minister, and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. He then highlighted "Perez de Cuellar's fruitful and unflagging task in favor of peace. The recent granting of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize to the UN Peace-Keeping Forces is a just acknowledgement of this task and this fills us with satisfaction."

Acevedo later stressed: "Since 1945 Paraguay has never doubted the need the world has for an organization respected by everyone; an organization based on international law and on the sacred principles of justice, peace, and security that will guarantee the peaceful resolution of controversies, the permanent progress of social and economic development, respect for the principle of non-intervention in internal affairs, and the other noble principles such as judicial integrity and equality of nations."

"We have never understood the position of those nations that overlook their moral commitment to the United Nations by failing to resort to it for the resolution of international conflicts. By sidestepping the United Nations, those nations are undermining the active role that should be assigned to this organization to enable it to fulfill the goals outlined when it was founded," he added.

The Paraguayan foreign minister stated: "The peoples of the world are anxious for a true peace that will build relationships. Without distinction the world's nations love the international juridical order and they observe with concern the unilateral decisions adopted by certain nations in the sphere of their relations with other countries which harm not only the United Nations, but also the vital principles of our charter, which was implemented to do away with the nastiness of war, foreign interference, and all the bad things that harm relationships."

Acevedo then stressed that "the report on the organization's work that has been submitted by the secretary general merits our enthusiastic applause. We know of the secretary general's commitment complying with his difficult and noble tasks, and we know him as a man of peace, conciliation, and dialogue at the international level."

In his address, Acevedo also stated that "regarding matters pertaining to human rights, Paraguay's position will always be based on justice to preserve the best levels of coexistence between governments and nations."

"In all forums Paraguay has always rejected the nuclear and conventional arms races because they cause billions of dollars to be thrown down the drain when humanity has priority needs in the economic and social sectors."

When he condemned terrorism, Acevedo stated: "Paraguay, which neither suffers the madness of terrorism nor armed violence, urges all the member countries that usually explain that underlying causes are to blame for these scourges to change their positions and fully support every initiative to eradicate terrorism from the world."

In another part of his address Acevedo referred to our country, stressing: "A new government period started on 15 August 1988 in accordance with the 1967 Constitution, which is the undeniable work of a national constituent assembly that included four political parties. The elections for the 1988-93 5-year term were free and clean in accordance with the Electoral Law. The right to vote was exercised as always with various options within the time framework that is determined by the law. The three branches of government function freely and the nation is marching toward better goals for progress and development in a multiparty atmosphere open to all politically democratic ideologies that adjust themselves to legal norms that are equal for everyone."

Acevedo extended to the United Nations the Paraguayan Government's appreciation for the efforts being made in favor of the less developed nations and those without a maritime coast. He said that "wealthy and industrialized countries have the unavoidable moral obligation" to put their technology at the disposal of the less developed nations.

"We are grateful for the assistance of the UN Development Program which has carried out so many projects throughout the world to meet the current demand that technology be placed at the disposal of less developed countries," he said.

Referring to the foreign debt, he stated: "Although Paraguay is not, fortunately, in the situation of many countries of the region, we express our solidarity with all those who have their future tarnished by this issue, which is so deeply related to development and the enhancement of living standards. This problem needs not only economic solutions but political ones as well. The super industrialized world has a moral obligation to help the less developed countries."

Acevedo added: "Paraguay is experiencing encouraging economic growth; thus, the 4.3-percent GDP rate in 1987 is expected to increase to 6 percent this year." He also mentioned the "friendly ties between my country and its neighbors." He went on to cite the projects of Itaipu and Yacyreta, in addition to maritime port facilities obtained by our country from Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Peru.

Peru

APRA Reportedly Refused Garcia Resignation

PY1310174688 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Bogota—Luis Caceres Velazquez, the mayor of the Peruvian city of Arequipa, has stressed in Bogota

that Alan Garcia, his country's president, must leave his post for the good of democracy, because the people do not want a coup d'etat.

Caceres Velazquez, who is in Bogota participating in the meeting of mayors from four of the five Andean countries, also said that Garcia has failed with his economic program because he did not control inflation, which has skyrocketed.

He added that the Peruvian president has lost his ability to govern and that he has shut himself up in his palace, which he is afraid to leave.

Garcia even resigned, but the APRA, the governing party, stubbornly refused to let him go.

Ministry, 'Military Sources' on General's Removal

PY1310202088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1819 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Lima, 13 Oct (EFE)—Today The Peruvian Defense Ministry denied that General Raul Silva Tuesta's retirement is related to "acts showing a lack of respect for the nation's Constitution." The ministry, however, did not explain why he retired from active duty.

The ministry indicated in the communique that Gen Silva Tuesta himself requested that he be replaced as commander of the First Army Region, headquartered in Piura, 1,100 km north of Lima, on the border with Ecuador.

The sudden removal of Gen Silva Tuesta was officially announced yesterday, although under military regulations he was appointed First Army Region commander until this coming December when he would have completed that assignment. Before this assignment, Silva Tuesta was chief of the military cabinet of President Alan Garcia.

The communique carried in the official gazette notes that the generals of the Armed Forces holding commanders' posts have been informed of Gen Silva Tuesta's retirement in order to prevent distorted reports and to deny those already circulating about acts showing lack of respect for the nation's Constitution."

It adds that Silva Tuesta was asked on Saturday to come to Lima "to discuss matters pertaining to relations between the Army General Command and the commanders of military regions," but did not explain the specific reasons for that call.

While military sources alleged that Silva Tuesta was the leader of a group calling for a coup to install a civilian-military government, Lima newspapers said that he was responsible for aborting a rebellion of high-ranking officers who wanted to depose President Alan Garcia.

Asking not to be identified, the military sources reported that Silva Tuesta was removed for "indisciplinary acts of disloyalty" to the high command. These charges imply that Silva Tuesta may have failed to comply with institutional norms.

Armando Villanueva, president of the Council of Ministers, last night dismissed reports that the general intended to disrupt the democratic order, and he asserted that Gen Silva Tuesta "is a soldier who deserves all my respect. He is a gentlemam."

In the only official statement made on this affair, Villanueva affirmed that the press has no knowledge of "movements" in the five military regions that make up the Peruvian Army forces.

Alan Garcia, 39, assumed the nation's Presidency in July 1985 for a 5-year term.

The alleged coup made the headlines of the morning newspapers in Lima. LA REPUBLICA carries this headline: "Former Generals Might Be Involved in a Plot." EL NACIONAL printed a headline reading "Coup Aborted."

Military, Police Act To Prevent Strike Disorder

PY1310165788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1600 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Lima, 13 Oct (TELAM-ANSA)—During the early hours of the day on which a 24-hour strike has been called by the main labor union, the police this morning defused several explosives and lowered red flags with the hammer and sickle that had been hoisted in heavily populated Lima neighborhoods.

Heavily-armed police and military contingents are patrolling Lima and important Peruvian cities to avoid any street disorders.

Before dawn today, Army troops arrested several civilian groups which were trying to block avenues and paint slogans on walls.

Thousands of workers were trying to get to their jobs but the public transportation system is experiencing difficulties.

The General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP) has reported that all its branches have been complying with the stoppage since this morning. However, Peruvian Labor Minister Orestes Rodriguez has said that the situation is normal and that the stoppage will fail because of their obvious political content.

600 Arrested

PY1410022288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2054 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Lima, 13 Oct (EFE)—Six hundred people were arrested today during a national strike organized by the communist General Confederation of Peruvian Workers. The strike, which was declared illegal by the government, represented a failure for the executive branch and "a complete success" for the union leaders.

Labor Minister Orestes Rodriguez reported that the Peruvian workers "rejected" the measure of force and reported to their jobs en masse, taking advantage of a government notice that workers could arrive 2 hours late.

However, the CGTP, which organized the strike, fully disagreed with the government's claim and said that the strike was "a complete success" and that 95 percent of unionized workers observed it.

The communist-leaning CGTP organized the strike to protest the anti-inflationary policy of President Alan Garcia's government. It also demanded a 150-percent wage increase, plus a monthly indexation of salaries in keeping with inflation.

CGTP leader Senator Valentin Pacho said that the police "intensified their repression" in the whole country and arrested 600 striking workers.

Police reported that about 120 students were arrested in Lima in incidents in several universities and in the 2 de Mayo Plaza, where the CGTP headquarters is located.

The students were protesting the death of a colleague—who died yesterday during a support rally for the strike—who, according to university authorities, was killed by a shot fired by the police although the Interior Ministry denied it.

Police sources also reported that about 30 workers were arrested at the headquarters of the Light and Power Federation, a CGTP member which has been on strike for 10 days.

In both cases, the police reported that they confiscated explosives and fire materials. However, Senator Pacho said that the police placed the explosives themselves in the union headquarters.

The strike developed with a few minor incidents in Lima, such as the temporary interruption of traffic due to barricades on the access roads to this capital and the burning of tires and three trunks.

The most significant incident took place in the 2 de Mayo Plaza, where police dispersed a group of protesters—including a CGTP leader and two congressmen from the United Left (IU) coalition—with water cannons and tear gas.

Two Peruvian photographers were injured by shrapnel from tear-gas cannisters hurled by police.

The police and military forces patrolled Lima and its surroundings with small tanks and vehicles with artillery equipment.

The Council of Ministers analyzed the situation during its regular Thursday meeting today, but they did not make any official statement about the strike.

The state offices and business worked almost as normal in Lima, while the private banks and public transportation sector worked with restrictions.

The public transportation sector—which announced a total strike for tomorrow—today threated to hold indefinite strikes in addition to the national stoppage, while the mining and metal works sector will start similar strikes as of 17 October.

The transportation sector workers, which amount to nearly 300,000, are demanding an increase in bus fares to compensate for the high prices of spare parts for vehicles.

The nearly 70,000 Peruvian miners—whose sector represents 54 percent of Peru's foreign currency income—demanded wage increases.

According to the Labor Ministry, the private sector lost 12 million hours of work in July and August as a consequence of the wave of strikes, which worsened in September and October.

Student Killed During 12 Oct Protest March

PY1310184888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0313 GMT 13 Oct 88

[Text] Lima, 12 Oct (TELAM-ANSA)—A student was shot and killed during a students' protest march this afternoon. The victim was identified as Hernan Pozo Barrientos. Reportedly, the bullet that hit him in the head was fired by a policeman during the students' march in front of the San Marcos National University. The students were demanding the assignement of more educational funds to the university.

San Marcos Rector Jorge Campos Rey de Castro said the death of Anthropology Faculty student Pozo Barrientos is yet another crime.

Pozo Barrientos is the fourth student to have been killed in clashes with the forces of order in the last 2 months, according to Rey de Castro.